

Middle schoolers learn about medical careers

■ Tykes will overrun the campus on Friday to attend Career MED, a job fair for the medical field

By Brooke Ross
Oregon Daily Emerald

University students will be sharing their campus with more than a hundred middle school students on Friday.

In order to help younger students prepare for their futures, two of the University's College of Education programs, the Youth Enrich-

ment and Talented and Gifted Programs, are co-sponsoring Career MED, a career fair designed to educate middle school students about professional options in the medical field.

Jane Mickles, coordinator of the Youth Enrichment and TAG Programs, thinks the fair encourages younger students to think about their futures.

"Middle schoolers have no idea [that] when they get to high school, they'll have to make career decisions," she said.

The Youth Enrichment Program

and the TAG Programs are offered to Lane County elementary and middle school students. Both offer

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Jane Mickles
Coordinator,
Youth Enrichment Program

director of the International Institute for Sports and Human Performance.

Dr. Li-Shan Chou, an assistant professor in the Exercise and Movement Science department, will be guiding Career MED students through the biomechanics sports lab tour.

Chou, a new faculty member at the University, specializes in the biomechanical analysis of human movement and rehabilitation engineering. Along with two graduate student assistants, Chou will show students the lab facilities and educate them on the basics of biomechanical science. He said he hopes the event gives students more guidance for their future.

Mangun, who is assisting in the organizing of Career MED, hopes that students will get a good overview of the programs offered at the University.

This year the University pro-

grams are sponsoring the event with PeaceHealth Medical Center.

Linda Hawley, PeaceHealth Medical Center public affairs coordinator, said the career fair is important because it's a rare opportunity for middle school students to explore health care professions before entering high school.

Participating students will begin their day at Sacred Heart Medical Center where they will visit three of the hospital's 10 departments, learning about subjects such as dietary information, emergency room standards and the duties of hospital nurses. Students will also break into small groups to meet physicians and ask them questions.

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The Career MED Career Fair takes place Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tax measure

continued from page 1A

n't going to be any kind of cut in current spending."

For the first year however, she said there would be no funding for expanding programs.

Bruce said with more students choosing to pursue a higher education, expansion is exactly what the OUS needs to keep accommodating rising numbers and interests of students.

ASUO student body president Jay Breslow said his position prevents him from voicing an opinion about the measure, but he did say he has no doubts that receiving millions of dollars less in general funding will affect students at the University and elsewhere in the state.

"Every single student pays tuition, so if there's a tuition hike, it'll affect every student," he said.

Breslow is not alone with his impression that students would be affected by the passage of the measure. Mary Jubitz, chairwoman of the University Alumni Association's advocacy committee, said if the budget cuts that are likely to result from the measure were to be spread evenly, higher education would lose an estimated \$54 million next year.

Jubitz said the measure would reverse recent legislative efforts to make education more affordable to in-state students and might lead the state's smartest high school graduates to earn their degrees elsewhere.

"If we can't keep young people within the state, the best and the brightest, we're going to shoot ourselves in the foot," Jubitz said. "Why would we trade off a healthy K-12 and higher education system for something that is not going to benefit very many Oregonians?"

Jubitz is currently involved in drafting a letter to 60,000 in-state University alumni to encourage them to oppose the measure.

She said statistics show that only the wealthiest 6 percent of Oregonians would actually benefit from the measure, and even among those, many oppose the measure.

Miller, however, said after the first year following the passage of Measure 91, students should have no reason to be concerned. In fact, she said, the money taxpayers will save in tax dollars will eventually spur more growth, and consequently yield additional funds for colleges and universities.

"It's really not a drastic cut," Miller said.

Although the exact impact Measure 91 would have is unclear, those with stakes in higher education have little doubt that tuition would rise and the availability of financial aid grants would fall if the measure passed.

"It could be the difference to de-

cide whether they would go to college or not," said Gene Evans, a public information officer for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission.

Evans said state need grants are funded from general funds, which would be affected by Measure 91. Evans said that last year 33,000 eligible students applied for the grant and 30,813 received them.

Measure 91 could cut the amount of general funds available for such grants drastically, Evans said.

"As far as state aid goes, it could definitely affect the students," he

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said.

John Cooper, a professor emeritus at Portland State University and a member of the Interinstitutional Faculty Senate, said the passage of Measure 91 would hurt already low faculty salaries across the state, in addition to raising the amount of tuition students pay.

"It's something higher ed really cannot afford," he said. "I think every student should feel threatened by it. At the very least, there is the danger of rising costs of a higher education."

He said he is confident universities would have to cut programs as well.

Besides the obvious effects opponents of the measure fear, Bruce pointed out that fewer students paying more tuition would hurt the state's economy overall. Besides adding consumers to university towns' economies, OUS institutions also produce revenues from research projects, he said.

Last year, universities produced about \$300 million from such revenues. Should Measure 91 pass, Bruce said there might be less funding to invest into research projects, and consequently there would be less revenue.

"I think people overlook the fact that universities are a really big contributor to our state's economy," he said.

students a number of activities to improve computer skills and introduce students to new interests, such as theater and writing.

Participants will spend the afternoon at the University, meeting professors and touring various laboratories around campus. Students will tour the athletic training service center, the motion control lab and the biomechanics sports lab, said Kimberley Mangun, assistant

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